

REMARKS AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required restriction the invention under 35 U.S.C. 121 to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 11 and 17-29, drawn to RDE4 polypeptides and their fusion products, classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.

Group II: Claim 30, drawn to a method of preparing RNAi utilizing RDE-4 protein, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 11 and 17-29, drawn to RDE-4 polypeptides and their fusion products) under 35 U.S.C. §121 for prosecution in the present application, without traverse.

The Examiner has indicated that Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. It is Applicants understanding that upon a finding of allowability of a product claim, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined and reentered as a matter of right, and will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CDF 1.104.

Applicants reserve the right to traverse the restriction between the non-elected groups in this or a separate application.

Dated: June 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Debra J. Milasincic
Registration No.: 46,931
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant